



In **Ephesians 6:12** Paul says that we wrestle (Greek: pale) **NOT** against flesh and blood, but against an evil spiritual enemy.

When Paul wrote this he was using an analogy to describe Close Quarter Combat between two individuals... hands on battle!



When we consider that often the loser in Greek wrestling had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we have a taste of how the Ephesian saints who read Paul's letter would have received this illustration. The believer's wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less serious.

Also, when the ancient Greeks wrestled, they did so naked... they didn't weigh themselves down. How many Christians go into battle carrying "excess baggage" with them?

The army of Alexander the Great was advancing on Persia. At one critical point, it appeared that his troops might be defeated. The soldiers had taken so much plunder from their previous campaigns that they had become weighted down and were losing their effectiveness in close quarter combat.

Alexander commanded that all the spoils be thrown into a heap and burned. The men complained bitterly but soon saw the wisdom of the order. Someone wrote, "It was as if wings had been given to them—they walked lightly again." Victory was assured!

The Bible also likens Christians to runners. To win the race, we must "**lay aside every weight**" that would drag us down and rob us of our strength

and endurance (**Hebrews 12:1**).

This weight may be an excessive desire for possessions, the captivating love of money, an endless pursuit of pleasure, slavery to sinful passions, or a burdensome religious legalism.

As soldiers of Christ, we must rid ourselves of anything that hinders us in the Close Quarter Combat with our spiritual enemy.

To fight the battle effectively, we must be clad with the spiritual armor of God (**Ephesians 6:11-17**)

When I go hunting big game such as deer or moose, even though I have all the gear needed to get the job done, I must go to where they are to be effective. If I hunt at home or go to the mall or wander around my neighbourhood with my rifle shooting wildly into space, I won't accomplish anything other than interest from the police!

If I find my way to the woods where the game lives but wear a blindfold, I won't be successful either!

As Christians we are in fierce and deadly Close Quarter Combat with spiritual entities, so we must be properly prepared or they will beat us! They may win small battles, some big battles and maybe even win the war against you if they lure and trap you into losing your salvation!

If you get smacked down, find out what happened... did you sin, fail to forgive, get sidetracked in the world, operate in the flesh instead of in the spirit... find the root... get rid of the root and then get up and press on!

Paul didn't say we wrestle part time nor did he say we take the armor on and off... it stays on as the war against us is always on... every day... the enemy doesn't sleep!

Some “weekend warriors” (1 hour on Sunday Christians) have a very poor chance of survival in all out Close Quarter Combat with a determined enemy operating on a 24/7 basis. Statistics on various denominations and their watered-down or anti-Gospel doctrines indicate how efficient the enemy has been in infiltrating the Church and destroying from within. The enemy has been so effective that most people don’t realize they have been conquered!

The main Close Quarter Combat tactic the enemy utilizes against us is in our minds. Many are convinced that they’re OK and anyone that comes along to point out to them Biblically that they’re losing or totally lost, is shunned, ignored and even attacked! (Has happened to Rhoda and me!) The enemy also bamboozles many into thinking that spiritual warfare isn’t necessary!

Even when we’re beating the enemy at every turn, we must be careful to remain humble and give all the glory to God, as the enemy will toss the “pride trap” in our path to bring us down.

The gist or essence of this study and what Paul is telling us is that we are in a deadly Close Quarter Battle with spiritual enemies. They are serious, prepared, cunning, ruthless and merciless. Should we be any less?

So to be the Close Quarter Combat conqueror that we’re destined to be, we must:

1. Recognize that the enemy is spiritual, not physical!
2. Don’t carry any “excess baggage” with you into battle!
3. Put on the whole armor of God!
4. Never take the armor off!
5. Don’t operate blind or in the flesh... operate in the spirit!
6. Hunt where the enemy is, not where they ain’t!
7. Examine ourselves after any loss to find the root and get rid of it!
8. Realize that we are in combat every day!
9. Keep our lives and thinking in tune with the Gospel... make immediate corrections if needed!
10. Give all the glory to God!
11. Be serious, prepared, cunning, ruthless and merciless!
12. Have fun!

What was that last one... have fun?

Yes, as Christians we are to have joy in life, even in Close Quarter Battle (CQC), as we are defeating an enemy that is against God, that wants to destroy us, that wants to destroy the Church, that wants to bring sickness and death, that wants us to suffer... we should enjoy attacking and conquering such enemies!

Once, every soldier (prior to firearms and missiles) was taught and mastered CQC to ready themselves for physical wars. If they didn’t, they didn’t last long! Now it is usually only offered to elite military special operation commando forces such as the Army Rangers or Navy SEALs. Martial artists of old were extremely effective in CQC... now they are taught kata (choreographed routines) and sport or point fighting, rather than preparing for real CQC encounters!

Sadly the same goes for the Church today... once, the early Church Christians were trained and prepared for reality! They were lethal in spiritual battle! Who teaches or practises spiritual CQC today? Only a very small percentage is doing what God wants them to do! Too many Christians are only interested in “choreographed routines”... afraid of CQC or to fight back even when the enemy has them on the ground in a chokehold.

What are they afraid of... dying?

“Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once. Of all the wonders that I yet have heard, it seems to me most strange that men should fear; Seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come.” -William Shakespeare

“For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” -Paul in his letter to the [Philippians 1:21NLT](#)

“Live for nothing, or die for something. It's your call.”-Rambo

**We’re in Close Quarter Combat whether we want it or not so let’s make the enemy hurt!
Good Hunting!**